

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 /070 W
-----003019 071815Z /44

O R 071649Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9317
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6227

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, EC, NU
SUBJECT: GOE POSITION ON OAS DISCUSSION OF NICARAGUAN
SITUATION

1. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED ECUADOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD VENEZUELA'S
CALL FOR A MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF THE OAS ON THE
NICARAGUAN PROBLEM WITH ACTING FOREIGN UNDERSECRETARY HERNAN
VEINTIMILLA ON SEPTEMBER 6.

2. VEINTIMILLA SAID THAT ECUADOR WOULD VOTE FOR THE CONVO-
CATION OF A MEETING OF CONSULTATION WITHOUT ANY GREAT
ENTHUSIASM BECAUSE ECUADOR'S TRADITIONAL POLICY HAS BEEN TO
FAVOR SUCH MEETINGS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SUBJECT MATTER.
HOWEVER, HE WAS DUBIOUS AS TO WHETHER THE INITIATIVE WOULD
PASS IN THE FACE OF GREAT RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SEVERAL
COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO VEINTIMILLA, ECUADOR WAS RATHER CONCERNED
ABOUT THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, BELIEVING THAT IT WAS
DETERIORATING INTO AN ARMED STRUGGLE BETWEEN COMMUNISTS
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AND SOMOCISTAS WHEREIN THE DENOUEMENT WOULD NOT FAVOR
HEMISPHERIC INTERESTS. DESPITE THIS DANGER, HE SAW
LITTLE ROLE FOR THE OAS AT THIS TIME, AND DOUBTED WHETHER
VENEZUELA HAD ANY PRACTICAL, CONCRETE SOLUTION TO PROPOSE.
VEINTIMILLA THOUGHT THAT WORDS ADMONISHING THE TWO PARTIES
NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER WOULD MAKE THE OAS LOOK SILLY,
AND EVEN THE DISPATCHING OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE---APART

FROM ALL OTHER OBJECTIONS TO THIS ALTERNATIVE---WOULD NOT
BE EFFECTIVE IN VIEW OF THE UNCLEAR OBJECTIVES THAT SUCH
A FORCE WOULD HAVE.

4. PERHAPS AT SOME TIME DOWN THE ROAD, MUSED VEINTIMILLA,
THE OAS MIGHT HAVE A ROLE IN NICARAGUA. FOR INSTANCE,
HE SAID, IF SOMOZA DECAMPED AND ELECTIONS WERE CALLED FOR,
THE OAS MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS AND
MIGHT EVEN CONSIDER SENDING A PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN
ORDER TO FILL A PUBLIC ORDER VACUUM THERE. HE HASTENED
TO ADD THAT THIS WAS MERELY THEORIZING ON HIS PART AND
THE GOE WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE ITS POSITION UNTIL SUCH
CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENTED THEMSELVES.

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